

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00178 270723Z

21

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W
----- 044052

P R 270627Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 732

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0178

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSAL: SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL MISSION

REF: STATE 11449, 17424; SOFIA 142

1. WHILE WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SUPPORT FACILITATIVELY WOZAR/GITTINS VISIT WITHIN OUR LIMITED ABILITIES, WE DO NOT CONCUR IN USING FUNDS FROM OUR CU COUNTRY ALLOCATION TO HELP PAY FOR VISIT. WE SUPPORT SISTER CITIES PROGRAM IN GENERAL, BUT IT HAS NO DIRECT RELEVANCE TO OUR COUNTRY PLAN OBJECTIVES.

2. PLOVDIV OFFICIALS UNREACHABLE TODAY, BUT CITY APPARENTLY HAS YET TO FORMALIZE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH FORT WAYNE. GIVEN PRESENT STATUS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, SUCH FORMAL IDENTIFICATION WITH AMERICA HAS LITTLE TO RECOMMEND IT TO CONSERVATIVE BULGARIANS. WE DOUBT IN NEAR FUTURE EITHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTING PLOVDIV/FORT WAYNE RELATIONSHIP OR OTHER SISTER CITIES TIES ARE PROBABLE. THUS OBJECTIVES OF VISIT SEEM UNACHIEVABLE.

3. RICHMOND IN VIENNA PRESENTED BLEAK PICTURE OF CU/EE'S CFY BUDGETARY POSITION, INCLUDING NEED TO DEFER PROJECTS ALREADY COMMITTED. WHILE BULGARIA APPARENTLY NOT NOW AFFECTED BY DEFERRAL, WE WISH TO RESERVE OUR SHARE OF COSTS OF

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VISIT FOR MORE OBJECTIVE-ORIENTED PURPOSES.

HERZ

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Message Attributes

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